



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012

No. 48

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, through Whom we see what we could be and what we can become, thank You for giving us another day.

Send Your Spirit upon the Members of this people's House to encourage them in their official tasks. Be with them and with all who labor here to serve this great Nation and its people.

Assure them that whatever their responsibilities, You provide the grace to enable them to be faithful to their duties and the wisdom to be conscious of their obligations and fulfill them with integrity.

Remind us all of the dignity of work and teach us to use our talents and abilities in ways that are honorable and just and are of benefit to those we serve. May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOLD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute requests on each side.

IPAB MUST BE REPEALED

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, every American should be given the freedom to make his or her own decisions regarding health care. When the government takeover health care bill was passed, the liberal control of Congress took away this right and instead created the Independent Payment Advisory Board, IPAB. This board is comprised of 15 unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats who will be responsible for making major cuts to Medicare which are likely to lead to waiting lists, deferral of service, and denial of care.

Today, House Republicans will vote on a bill that will eliminate IPAB and help strengthen our Medicare system for a doctor-patient relationship.

Our country cannot afford to spend \$1.8 trillion on an unconstitutional

government mandate which the NFIB reveals will destroy 1.6 million jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

REPEAL OF IPAB WRONGLY TIED TO MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

(Mr. HOLDEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of repealing IPAB. However, I speak in opposition to tying this repeal to H.R. 5. This is another act of political theater and disingenuous at best.

IPAB relinquishes congressional responsibility to care for our seniors. Passing these decisions off, whether it is to insurance companies or an unelected commission, undermines Congress' ability to represent the needs of our seniors and make decisions on health care policy for Medicare beneficiaries.

We must preserve access to quality Medicare while containing costs and replacing the flawed payment system. Simply cutting reimbursements is not the answer. If we truly want to rein in the cost of Medicare and repeal IPAB, we should do it as a stand-alone bill.

The Senate has no intention of bringing H.R. 5 up for a vote. Why then are we wasting our time on legislation that has no chance of becoming law?

Americans want their elected leaders working together to find solutions to the problems facing our country, not to be active participants in political theater.

I urge my colleagues to have an open and honest debate on Medicare reform by bringing an independent IPAB repeal bill to the floor.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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